I CLAIM:

1. A prosthetic mesh system adapted for implantation in a body, comprising a biocompatible mesh layer, said mesh layer being flexible such that said mesh layer has a generally flat shape when it is in a first condition and a generally collapsed shape when it is in a second condition, said mesh layer having at least one ridge formed integrally therewith and projecting therefrom in a direction substantially perpendicular to said mesh layer when said mesh layer is in said first condition, said at least one ridge being sized and shaped so as to facilitate the movement of said mesh layer from its said collapsed shape to its said flat shape.

2. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 1, wherein said at least one ridge is formed by a thermo-forming process.

3. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 2, wherein said at least one ridge is sized and shaped such that said mesh layer is expandable from its said collapsed shaped to its said flat shape after being implanted in a body.

4. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 3, wherein said mesh layer is sized and shaped so as to be used as a patch for repairing a hernia defect.

5. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 4, wherein said mesh layer has a circular shape.

6. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 5, wherein said at least one ridge includes a plurality of ridges formed in said mesh layer.

7. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 6, further comprising another mesh layer and a connecting member connecting said another mesh layer to said mesh layer.

8. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 7, wherein each of said ridges has a ring shape.

9. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 8, wherein said ridges are arranged in a concentric manner.

10. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 7, wherein said ridges extend radially outwardly from a center of said mesh layer.

11. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 6, wherein each of said ridges has a ring shape.

12. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 11, wherein said ridges are arranged in a concentric manner.

13. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 6, wherein said ridges extend radially outwardly from a center of said mesh layer.

14. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 3, wherein said at least one ridge includes a plurality of ridges formed in said mesh layer.

15. The prosthetic mesh system of Claim 14, wherein said mesh layer has opposing ends, said ridges extending linearly between said opposing ends.